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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Comments on OO-B-90229, Sighting of Unconventional Aircraft

1. The distance and lighting conditions under which the source sighted the unusual object would make it extremely difficult to determine just what was being seen. In some degree, the description fits a vertical take-off aircraft or a missile or aircraft launched from a zero length rail. The zero length launching could most certainly be accomplished only with a rocket which would produce a large flame and smoke which would have been very noticeable. The spiraling of the object as it left the launcher does not fit very well with a vertical take-off aircraft.

2. The very small amount of details given in the referenced report does not permit an identification of the object sighted. It does, however, tend to indicate that it was not a "flying saucer". In 1954, the Scientific Advisory Board to the Chief of Staff, USAF, appointed an ad hoc committee of three scientists to evaluate project "Y". The committee found that several factors had been overlooked or minimized in their development, such as payload, drag factors, and mechanical design problems, to such an extent that the committee recommended against support for the project. Air Force support of the project now is in basic research concerned with vertical thrust which modifies considerably the flying saucer concept.

Herbert Scoville, Jr.
HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.
Assistant Director
Scientific Intelligence

Enclosure: OO-B-90229 Report

36541

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